



hydrants or consulting services were implemented at every Winter Olympic Games from Lake Placid in 1980 until Torino 2006.

Attaining prestige is a result of the company's innovation, something it started with underground water pipes in the early days and continues to do so with new 'green' snowmaking technologies. Today, Ratnik's equipment requires 20% of the energy it needed in the 1970s - providing resorts huge savings on their biggest line item in terms of cost.

Of even more importance, Ratnik's technology creates opportunities for people in non-snow climates to experience the pleasure of skiing, snowboarding and other winter activities.

"We have ski area customers all the way down to North Carolina. Otherwise people there wouldn't be able to ski but for a few days, if at all," said Ratnik.

"It's a chance for everyone to go out and enjoy the sport and be in nature."

"Colorado Ski Country USA recognized Ron Ratnik for the large impact his company has made on Colorado's ski industry, presenting him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010."

Ratnik Industries

By Ryan O' Leary

From Vermont's Okemo Mountain on the East Coast to Mountain High in the West and all the way to South Korea, Ratnik Industries' snowmaking prowess is the driving force behind high quality snow at ski areas.

Ratnik Industries began in the 1960s, as current President and former GM Engineer Ron Ratnik pondered an alternative to driving long distances for recreational ski trips. Determined, Ratnik contacted other partners with the notion of making snow for their new resort, Bristol Mountain in western New York.

"I used to ski at Mount Snow, but that was far away to keep making the trip. I said, why don't we build a new ski center locally," Ratnik remarked. "Snowmaking at the time was pretty bad, I knew we could do it better," he added.

Beginning with a singular resort in 1965, Ratnik now claims snowmaking equipment at more than 600 resorts worldwide.

The company is best known for designing and fabricating snowmaking equipment solutions for ski resorts seeking consistent snow and a reliable length to the ski season. Ratnik calls it "snowhow".

"Out in the West we can help them have a reliable opening date to their ski season so they can run a business. On the East it's more about providing reliable snow for the whole season," said Ratnik.

One location that relies heavily on dependability of snow is Colorado, where 11-million people skied or boarded on snow created by Ratnik's 2000 snow cannons and other equipment in 2010. Colorado Ski Country USA recognized Ron Ratnik for the large impact his company has made on Colorado's ski industry, presenting him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.

Ratnik's success extends worldwide as its snow-guns,



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